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Nota di contenuto	Salvia spp: An updated on antioxidant activity and pharmacological uses -- European species of genus Salvia: secondary metabolites, pharmacological properties and biological activity -- Chia - Tiny, but mighty -- Composition of volatile compounds in Salvia sp., grown in Bulgaria and their biological activities -- Screening of Salvia leaves surface microflora for lactobacteria with potential application in development of new high-quality functional dairy products. - Anticancer activity of Salvia miltiorrhiza -- Salvia divinorum a psychoactive plant with pharmacological potential -- Bioactive Constituents of Anatolian Salvia Species -- Salvia cell culture: a terrific factory of bioactive compounds -- Optimization of the production of rosmarinic acid in Salvia officinalis and Salvia dolomitica cell biomass with several biotechnological approaches -- Bioactivities of differentiated Salvia in vitro cultures.- Micropropagation of African Salvia species -- Molecular Markers in Salvia: Past, Present and Future -- Genetic engineering and manipulation of metabolite pathways in Salvia plants"- under correspondence.
Sommario/riassunto	The genus Salvia represents nearly 1,000 species that are widely distributed around the world. It is the largest in the Lamiaceae family. Traditionally, infusions of Salvia species have been widely used to treat

oral inflammation, throat and headaches, and digestive disturbances in various folklore- and ethno-medicine practices worldwide. The antispasmodic, antiseptic and hypoglycemic effects of their extracts have been recognized by the ancient healers a long time ago before the development of modern medicine. With the advances in phytochemistry and pharmacology, terpenes, polyphenols and volatile compounds have been recognized as the source of bioactivity in *Salvia* extracts. Nowadays, because of their valuable pharmaceutical and nutraceutical properties, many *Salvia* species have been widely used as ingredients in food, pharmacy and cosmetic industries. The economic importance of *Salvia* plants continues to increase, following closely the growing interest to the concept for modern healthy lifestyle, based on prevention by consuming quality foods and nutraceutical supplements of natural origin. However, the growing demand has led to overexploitation of natural habitats and in the last few years many wild growing *Salvia* species have shrunk or fallen under threat. Obviously, to deal with that problem and to prevent ecological crisis, there is an urgent need for alternative, renewable sources of *Salvia* biomass. Plant biotechnology can provide a wide range of tools for development of economically feasible continuous production of standardized valuable phytochemicals. Plant in vitro culture technology is a powerful method for continuous production of plant secondary metabolites under controlled conditions, recently adapted to various *Salvia* species. *Salvia* in vitro systems are harmless to natural plant populations and can be grown independently of environmental factors, geographical latitude, climatic change, and seasonal variations. Several bioactive metabolites from rare and endangered *Salvia* plants can be produced by employing different plant in vitro systems. However, the researches on development of large scale biotechnology, based on *Salvia* in vitro systems, are still in early stages and many points still have to be addressed before the commercialization to take place. In this book we intend to summarize the recent achievements in research with *Salvia* in vitro systems as biological matrixes for the production of pharmaceutically important secondary metabolites. Further we invited leading experts to present their recent studies on phytochemistry, ethnobotanical and ethnopharmacological aspects of genus *Salvia*. Safety and legal issues related to implementation of *Salvia* plants and in vitro cultures extracts in foods, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products will be discussed as well.

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